of the Arab civilians who are suffering under the occupation; and its refusal to implement the hundreds of resolutions that have been adopted by the United Nations in that regard. That issue is also directly linked to the core responsibility of the Security Council, namely, to maintain global peace and security, and the reason for an agenda item to have been devoted to the situation in the Middle East. That item has remained on the agenda for many long decades without being resolved. Now, certain parties are trying to draw a veil over that issue and to cover up the failure to resolve it, by bringing into Security Council discussions internal affairs that exceed the scope of the agenda item.

2. It is extremely unfortunate that Mr. Pascoe made no mention in his briefing of the situation in the occupied Syrian Golan, which Israel persists in refusing to return to Syria, the nation of which it is part, refusing to comply with the resolutions of international legitimacy and, in particular, Security Council resolution 497 (1981). Israel also continues to pursue terrorist and repressive policies towards the Syrian citizens who are subjected to occupation in the Golan. Furthermore, as part of their continuing campaign to extirpate the ties of occupied Golan with Syria and completely divide it from the Syrian geographical entity of which it is an integral part, the Israeli occupying authorities are building a racist separation barrier in the Golan, to the east of the town of Majdal Shams, as we have informed the Secretary-General in a number of official letters. We have also repeatedly drawn the attention of the United Nations Secretariat and the Secretary-General's staff to the danger of omitting the issue of the Golan from Secretariat briefings on the agenda item on the situation in the Middle East; unfortunately, to no avail. It is both unacceptable and astonishing that the Secretariat should fail to make any mention in its briefings of Israel's continued violation of the human rights of the Syrians who are suffering grievously under the occupation or its continued grave violations of international law. It is as if none of those violations have ever taken place, or as if Israel has ended its occupation of the Golan! It is as if the Syrians in the occupied Golan, who are living under the most repugnant occupation, do not deserve even the smallest part of the attention which the Secretariat pays in its briefing to the situation in Syria!

3. In his briefing, Mr. Pascoe unfortunately adopted the account proffered by the terrorist groups of what is taking place in Syria, and made no mention of the genuine reforms that are being carried out in Syria, which culminated in the adoption of a new constitution. That Constitution provides for the establishment of the modern Syrian democratic State, which will be based on the rule of law, the equality of all citizens and political and economic pluralism; protect general freedoms; and exercise authority democratically through the ballot box. The briefing quite unjustly ascribes full responsibility to the Government of Syria for the painful events that are taking place there, on the basis of misleading information for which there is no evidence and which lacks all credibility. At the same time, it mentions the operations carried out by the armed groups, but ignores the fact that those terrorist groups are responsible for acts that include killing, sabotage, and the destruction of infrastructure by attacking institutions and destroying public and private property; destroying oil and gas pipelines, the railways, the facilities that provide public services to citizens; and the indiscriminate killing of civilians, soldiers, and those who maintain public order. Their actions in recent months have caused substantial human and material losses in Syria. Unfortunately, it appears that the Secretariat has heard nothing about those criminal acts, despite the fact that the

Government of Syria has sent it scores of official communications setting forth documented information on those acts which was corroborated in the report of the League of Arab States observer mission. Given that Mr. Pascoe has adopted the points of view of all Syria's enemies, why did he not mention the statements made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Prime Minister of Qatar and certain Western States, or indeed, the statements made by Al-Qaida leader Ayman Zawahiri, concerning the fact that they are supporting and arming the terrorist groups in Syria? It is one of the responsibilities of the Security Council, in order to maintain regional and global peace and security, to condemn and punish such statements, on the basis that they represent incitement, support and financing for terrorism, killing and destruction.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter issued as an official document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative